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Prof. ELLIOTT. It has been my pleasure to be able, as it has been my good fortune on certain occasions, to make a few remarks in connection with Prof. FORTIER's paper before this Association. For the reason that I knew nothing about the Isleños, I suggested that he should pay them a visit and tell us something about them.

We take up the history of this colony with which Prof. FORTIER started and we find the subject is an extremely interesting one. In the first place, if we start with the present generation we have the English; going back one step, we have the Creole French. Another *étape* and we have the Spanish. Here the real problem in connection with this most interesting people begins. We wish to determine to what part of Spain the dialect belongs, hence go back from Louisiana to the Canary Islands and the time when the Isleños were imported there (1778), but when we get back to the Canary Islands we have a mixture of the French language as spoken by the Normans, who conquered the territory and presented it to the King of Castile. Hence the combination here of French and Spanish.

But when we get thus far in our investigation we have not cleared up the field in any sense of the word. Long before the Spanish and long before the French came there, the old Carthaginians occupied the islands for hundreds of years. The Spaniards came in there, and I have no doubt that when these forms that we have in Louisiana are carried back to their source, we shall find considerable influence of the old Punic speech of the early inhabitants of the Canaries. It would be perfectly natural that the Punic influence should prevail to a considerable extent throughout the whole of the islands.

From these points, then, we easily see what an immense problem the language of the handful of people in Louisiana would lead up to. It is an interesting one from a historical point of view, and from the point of view of language mixture it becomes one of very great difficulty.

The few words and specimens of the language as quoted by Prof. FORTIER do not enable me to make a suggestion with reference to what part of Spain these Isleños came.

I hope at some time Prof. FORTIER will have the opportunity to continue his investigations in this field, and give us all the material that can be collected from Isleños, so that we may be able to determine approximately where they belong.

You see from these few points on which I have touched how many problems come up in connection with this subject, and how extremely difficult and complicated these problems become as we go back. On the field to-day it seems to me it would be comparatively easy to work out the mixture with English, but when we get back on the line a little and try to test the background of the whole question it becomes a very complicated one.

The President. The next paper on the program is "Jean de Mairet. A Critical Study in the History of French Literature," by Mr. JULIUS BLUME (John Hopkins University).

Dr. F. M. WARREN. Mr. President, from a study of CORNEILLE's plays and writings I consider the date of the 'Sophonisbe' to be 1633, and in that respect I agree with Mr. BLUME. I did not know how he first arrived at that date until I had the pleasure of hearing his paper read.

I would like to call the attention of the members of the Association to the importance of papers on literary history and also on the state of the drama, which evidently, in this country, is going to be a very important part of our literature. It will be seen that Mr. BLUME's paper is the first on literary history, and the only one presented at this meeting. We go into dialect study and philological work of various kinds, but literary history has had very little share in the papers of the Association.

Now, in regard to the drama, I call the attention of members of the Association to the importance of working up the drama, for, as this paper would seem to show, the dates of some of the most important plays in the French drama have been misunderstood, and, therefore, the history of the drama has been wrongly interpreted. The whole effect of the drama of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries has never been studied up, and I think, so far as we in this country are concerned, it will become a matter of national importance, inasmuch as we seem to have in America so many features of dramatic interest. It seems to me that it is a matter of great importance in our generation that the members of this Association should make a special study of the drama and try to inculcate regular rules and standard of taste.

Mr. JULIUS BLUME. I am glad to hear Dr. WARREN agrees with me as to the date of 'Sophonisbe,' especially, since he arrived at the year 1633 in a different way from that which I have followed. Dr. WARREN expresses some doubt about my date of 'Silvanire' (1629); but I hope to be able to remove this. Lately there appeared a work on CORNEILLE's 'Mélite,' by Prof. ULRICH MEIER, of Schneeberg, Saxony. I have not seen the book; but this information came to me through Dr. DANNHEISSER who, as I have stated, is the principal scholar in this question. He wrote to me about two weeks ago that through Prof. MEIER's work he had been induced to accept 1629 as the correct date for 'Silvanire.' With reference to this chronology I claim priority, as I maintained the 1629 more than half a year ago while Dr. DANNHEISSER yet advocated the year 1630. Thus I hope Prof. MEIER's work will convince others also of the correctness of the date of 'Silvanire.' For my part, I have no doubts at present on the subject.

Prof. ALCÉE FORTIER. I should like to call the attention of Mr. BLUME to the chronology of CORNEILLE and especially to the date of "Polyeucte."

Up to this time it was thought to be 1640, and Mr. PETIT DE JULLE-

VILLE, the great French author and professor, has contended it was 1643, and he has given some very good reasons for it. If the date 1643 for "Polyeucte" is correct, it would change the date of several other works of CORNEILLE.

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Prof. ALCÉE FORTIER. Before adjourning I have a duty to perform—a very pleasant duty. We have been well entertained during our stay in Washington and really we have felt at home, as I suppose we ought to be in this Capital City of our Country, but, nevertheless, I think it is proper to present the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That the MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA returns its hearty thanks to the officers and faculty of Columbian University, the Cosmos and University Clubs, Prof. BELL and all the pleasant people whom the members have met in Washington, for their kind hospitality and many favors.

The President. The question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution was unanimously agreed to.

The President. Members of the MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, the Chair feels in duty bound to acknowledge the uniform courtesy and assistance extended the present occupant of the Chair by the members of the Association, and congratulating you upon the success of the meeting, I declare the session adjourned.